

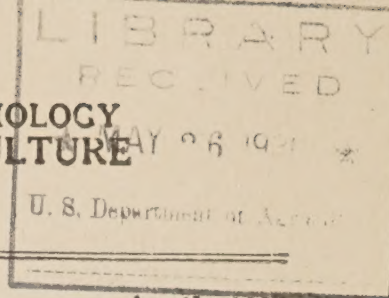
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MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Number 192

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COTTON INSECTS

B. R. Coad, in Charge

H. S. Peters, detailed from the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals, left Washington April 14 for New York, where he took charge of the first consignment of Microbracon kirkpatricki, a parasite of the pink bollworm collected in Kenya Colony, Africa, and shipped through England to New York by the Imperial Bureau of Entomology. Mr. Peters carried the material in an iced container to El Paso, Tex., where it was delivered on April 17 to F. A. Fenton, in charge of research work on the pink bollworm. A second consignment of the parasites reached New York April 21 on the S. S. George Washington. J. L. Webb, of the Washington office, took charge of this shipment and arranged with the express company to forward it to Dr. Fenton at El Paso, the company agreeing to keep the container supplied with ice en route. Dr. Fenton reports that the shipment was received in good condition.

C. A. Bennett, Mechanical Engineer, of the Division of Agricultural Engineering, Bureau of Public Roads, who has heretofore been mentioned as cooperating with the field laboratory at Tallulah in cotton-drying investigations, and having patented processes and methods devised there, was in Washington, D. C., from March 29 to April 18. Four patent claims, relating to his inventions, condensed into three public-service patents, have been granted, and a fifth claim appears to be on the way to recognition. While in Washington Mr. Bennett drafted four other claims for his division, and discussed matters pertaining to recent investigations in Mississippi. He left Washington April 18, returning to Tallulah by way of Birmingham, Ala., where officials of a firm making cotton gins conferred with him relative to the construction of cotton driers for some of their patrons.

E. E. Scholl, Assistant Director, and E. K. Towe, C. F. Stiles, and W. E. Jackson, of the Oklahoma Extension Service, spent several days in the latter part of April at Tallulah, conferring with B. R. Coad and project leaders of the field station on problems relating to the control of cotton insects.

J. T. Roy has been temporarily appointed Field Assistant, with headquarters at Tallulah.



## DECIDUOUS-FRUIT INSECTS

A. L. Quaintance, in Charge

Brief mention was made in last month's News Letter of the passage of an appropriation, in the First Deficiency Bill, of funds for work on the oriental fruit moth. This appropriation, for \$100,000, was made as a result of efforts on the part of interested fruit growers. Of this money \$80,000 is to be spent in large-scale experiments to determine the effectiveness of bait traps when used over large acreages. These experiments are now getting under way at the two points selected, Cornelia, Ga., and Vincennes, Ind.

Preliminary to the organization of this work a conference was held at Vincennes, Ind., April 4, when plans for the experiments were discussed. The attendance included S. C. Chandler, of the Illinois State Natural History Survey, Prof. J. J. Davis, of Purdue University, J. S. Houser, of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Prof. Leonard Haseman, of the University of Missouri, and Prof. W. A. Price, of the University of Kentucky; also Dr. F. H. Lathrop, Dr. B. A. Porter, R. F. Sazama, and W. P. Yetter, of the Bureau of Entomology, and several local fruit growers.

Besides temporary field assistants, L. F. Steiner, D. W. Hamilton, and Francis Munger have been appointed for the experimental work at Cornelia, Ga., and J. F. Cooper for that at Vincennes. W. P. Yetter has general charge of the experiments on control with bait traps, with headquarters for the present at Vincennes. The experiments at Cornelia will be under the immediate charge of Mr. Steiner, who is a graduate of Ohio State University and holds a master's degree from that institution. For the past three years, as an employee of Purdue University, he has been in charge of investigations of the codling moth in south-central Indiana. Mr. Hamilton is a graduate of the University of Illinois and has done advanced work at that institution. Mr. Munger is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. Mr. Cooper is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina, and for several years has been employed by the Bureau of Entomology on work with cotton insects.

In anticipation of funds specifically appropriated for investigations of peach insects in eastern Tennessee, which are expected to become available July 1, the Bureau is establishing a field laboratory at Harriman, in that State. H. G. Butler has been put in charge of it, and has been transferred from the Bureau's laboratory at Wichita, Kans. Mr. Butler has been succeeded at Wichita by Edwin W. Howe, a graduate of the University of California, who reported for duty April 10.

In view of the possible early removal of the smaller buildings connected with the Bureau of Entomology, and the resultant need of laboratory space elsewhere for workers who have been sheltered by them, the Division of Deciduous-Fruit Insects has leased quarters in Takoma Park, Md., at 7710 Blair Road. Accommodations at this address have also been provided for the scientific workers of the Division who have been quartered at Sligo, Md., and they are now transferring their equipment to the new laboratory. The workers who are moving from Washington include Dr. F. L. Campbell, H. H. Shepard, Charles Lukens, Miss Abby Holldridge, and Mrs. Bessie Bell.



## Contributions from the Japanese-Beetle Laboratory

On April 9 and 10 Doctor W. E. Fleming, of the Japanese-Beetle Laboratory, attended the General Meetings and the Insecticide Symposium of the American Chemical Society, at Atlanta, Ga.

Doctor David Miller, Chief Entomologist of the Cawthron Institute, New Zealand, visited the laboratory on April 28 and 29. Doctor Miller's chief interest is in biological control and soil insecticides. His visit was a most enjoyable event to the workers of the laboratory, who gained a number of new ideas from him.

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### TRUCK-CROP INSECTS

J. E. Graf, in Charge

J. R. Douglass, in charge of the field laboratory at Estancia, N. M., left Washington April 3 for Norfolk, Va., where he visited L. W. Brannon, in charge of the field laboratory there. In company with Dr. N. F. Howard, Columbus, Ohio, he visited Galax and other points in southwestern Virginia on April 9 and 10. He then returned to Columbus and on April 14 departed for his official station at Estancia, which he reached on April 17.

J. E. Graf returned to Washington on April 5, after visiting several of the field laboratories of this division.

C. F. Stahl, Chadbourn, N. C., visited Hammond, Baton Rouge, and other points in the strawberry-growing district of Louisiana, April 17 to 19, to ascertain whether the strawberry root aphid was a serious hindrance to the production of strawberries there.

J. N. Tenhet, of the field laboratory at Chadbourn, N. C., visited Washington, D. C., April 28, to confer with Bureau officials regarding the new project on the sandy-land wireworm, to be inaugurated at an early date.

Rodney Cecil returned on April 28 to the field laboratory at Geneva, N. Y., where he will resume his studies on bean insects. He spent last winter at the field laboratory at Columbus, Ohio.

Field assistants who have recently been appointed are W. W. Baker, for service at Puyallup, and R. N. Lux, for service at Walla Walla, both in the State of Washington.



## CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECTS

W. H. Larrimer, in Charge

On April 17 D. W. Jones, in charge of the parasite work of the European Corn Borer Investigations, met in New York a shipment of parasites of the citrus black fly (Aleurocanthus woglumi Ashby), collected by C. P. Clausen in the Straits Settlements. He then accompanied this shipment to Cuba, where he will act in an advisory capacity in the establishment of the parasites in that island.

J. C. Hamlin, of Salt Lake City, Utah, spent April 24 to 28 in Washington in consultation with Bureau officials.

In the month of April the following appointments were made: Olus L. Barnes, Junior Entomologist, for duty at Tempe, Ariz., Virgil F. Kent, Junior Entomologist, at Monroe, Mich., Lewis H. Colby, Agent, at Toledo, Ohio, and Miss Marydea Thomas, Under Scientific Helper, at Tempe, Ariz.

R. A. Blanchard, in charge of the field laboratory at Sacramento, Calif., spent April 13 and 14 in El Centro and other points in the Imperial Valley, investigating the cricket situation. He has returned to Sacramento, having finished the main investigation of the effect of burning on the control of the alfalfa aphid in the Antelope Valley.

Dr. Herbert Osborn, of Ohio State University, called at the Washington office on April 28.

Geo. W. Still, Assistant Entomologist, was reappointed on April 2 for duty at Sandusky, Ohio.

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## FOREST INSECTS

F. C. Craighead, in Charge

R. A. St. George attended a meeting at the Forest Products Laboratory during the last week in April. This is a meeting held annually to discuss the progress of forest research in the Forest Service and cooperating organizations. The Bureau of Entomology is chiefly interested in the development of plans for the economic survey provided for in recent legislation. An inventory of the forest resources of the country will be made, and an attempt to arrive at figures for depreciation due to insects and fungi will be part of the undertaking.

K. A. Salman, formerly with the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has been appointed Agent at our field station at Palo Alto, Calif., and reported for duty April 14. Mr. Salman will take over our contacts with the National Forests and National Parks in District 5.



The Deficiency Bill carried \$10,000 for experimental control of the spruce budworm in the Cody Canyon of the Shoshone National Forest. This is the east entrance to the Yellowstone National Park. A severe infestation of the spruce budworm has been progressing here for three or four years, and an attempt will be made to save the timber along the roadsides and around tourist camps by spraying with lead arsenate. From an investigational standpoint it is hoped that this work will demonstrate whether or not this insect, which feeds more or less concealed in the opening buds, can be controlled by arsenicals, and will determine the best time for application and the proper dosages.

#### Contributions from the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory

Among those visiting the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory in April were A. B. Baird, of the Dominion Parasite Laboratory, Belleville, Ontario, April 10, and Dr. E. P. Felt, of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories, Stamford Conn., April 29.

D. F. Barnes, of the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory, left Melrose Highlands, Mass., on April 16, for California. He has been transferred to the Division of Stored-Product Insects, with headquarters at Fresno.

W. F. Sellers, of the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory, was in Washington from April 2 to April 18, studying tachinid material belonging to the genera *Carcelia*, *Phryxe*, and *Zenillia*, and consulting with Dr. J. M. Aldrich.

C. E. Behre and V. S. Jensen, of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Amherst, Mass., visited the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory on April 10, and discussed certain cooperative work with C. W. Collins and I. T. Guild.

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#### TROPICAL, SUBTROPICAL AND ORNAMENTAL PLANT INSECTS

##### A. C. Baker, in Charge

Dr. A. C. Baker returned to Orlando, Fla., April 19, after having spent several weeks in Washington going over various phases of the work on the Mediterranean fruit fly and other insects. After a short stay in Orlando he left for Havana, Cuba, to be on hand at the time of arrival of the first shipment of parasites of the citrus black fly from the Orient, accompanied by D. W. Jones, of the Division of Cereal and Forage Insects. He also plans to visit the field laboratories at Mexico City, the Canal Zone, and Whittier, Calif.

Dr. C. I. Bliss stopped in Washington early in April en route from New Orleans, La., to his new assignment at Whittier, Calif.

Joseph R. Gross has been given a temporary appointment as Field Assistant for duty at Babylon, N. Y., in connection with the investigations of bulb insects.



## BEE CULTURE

Jas. I. Hambleton, in Charge

Dr. Karl von Frisch, of the University of Munich, who has been in this country on a lecture tour, visited the Bee Culture Laboratory on April 29 with Dr. N. E. McIndoo. Doctor von Frisch is an outstanding authority on the behavior of the honeybee, and is the author of numerous zoological papers. On Monday, April 28, he gave an interesting paper before the National Academy of Sciences on the sense of hearing in fishes. This lecture was well illustrated with a remarkable motion-picture film showing the response of fish to various sounds, and exemplified graphically the advantage of using motion pictures to report the results of experiments in which the behavior of an organism is involved. On the evening of the same day a dinner, attended by a number of the members of the Bureau of Entomology, was tendered Doctor von Frisch at the Cosmos Club, after which he gave a most interesting lecture on the language of the honeybee, illustrated by motion pictures, before an appreciative audience. Doctor von Frisch sailed for Germany on May 2, after completing an extensive tour, during which he visited and lectured before a number of the principal eastern and mid-western universities.

Prof. Archie D. Shaftesbury, formerly field assistant of the Division of Bee Culture Investigations, in company with Prof. C. G. Bookhout, both of the North Carolina College for Women, Greensboro, N. C., visited the Bee Culture Laboratory on April 1. Dr. Ralph Day, physicist connected with the Corning Glass Works, Corning, N. Y., also a former field assistant, visited the laboratory on the same day.

Dr. A. E. Stene, State Entomologist, Kingston, R. I., and P. E. Crane, of Middlebury, Vt., conferred with members of the laboratory staff in April.

P. M. Williams, of the Division of Warehousing, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Doctor McKinnon, of the Apalachicola River Valley Beekeepers' Association, of Florida, visited the Bee Culture Laboratory April 30 to confer concerning grading tupelo honey, a product of members of the association. Their honey will be stored in a bonded warehouse after being graded according to the United States grades for honey.

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## TAXONOMY

Harold Morrison, in Charge

Miss Gladys Hughes, a graduate student in the department of entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., spent some time in the taxonomic unit on April 1, consulting the specialists on Hymenoptera and Diptera.

Dr. A. H. Wright, of Cornell University, spent some time in discussion with Dr. Morrison on April 1, when making a visit to the National Museum on business relating to his zoological work.



Alan Nicolay, of Montclair, N. J., visited the National Museum April 11 to study material in the Casey collection of Coleoptera and to arrange for the transport to the Museum, as a gift, of his collection of Rhynchophora.

W. F. Sellers, of the Bureau's Gipsy-Moth Laboratory, Melrose Highlands, Mass., returned to his duties there April 18, after spending two weeks studying parasitic flies with Dr. J. M. Aldrich, of the National Museum.

F. A. McDermott, of Wilmington, Del., recently spent a day in the section of Coleoptera, examining lampyrid beetles and consulting with H. S. Barber.

On April 11 R. C. Williams, jr., of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa., and Ernest L. Bell, of Flushing, Long Island, N. Y., came to Washington to examine the National collections of Hesperidae.

L. J. Bottimer, of the entomological unit, insecticide control, Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration, located at Haddon Heights, N. J., visited the taxonomic unit April 12. He was especially interested in comparing certain Bruchidae, on which he has biological notes, with material in the Museum collection of Coleoptera.

Mr. Frank Morton Jones, of Wilmington, Del., spent April 15 in the National Museum examining Lepidoptera, especially of the family Psychidae, and consulting with Dr. William Schaus.

Miss Irene Bartlett, a graduate in entomology of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has been appointed Junior Entomologist, to assist in the general aspects of identification work.

H. F. Schwarz, of the department of entomology, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, spent April 16 to 18 studying bees of the genus *Melipona* in the National collection, with reference to a revision of the species of this genus.

On April 21 L. L. Buchanan went to Montclair, N. J., where he spent two days preparing for shipment a collection of weevils recently presented the National Museum by Alan Nicolay. The collection was transported to Washington by automobile on April 25. Mr. Buchanan also spent one day in New York City examining certain Curculionidae in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

On April 22 Dr. J. G. Needham, head of the department of entomology of Cornell University, worked for a few hours in the Division of Insects and visited several of the specialists.



J. H. Nicolaou, of Athens, Greece, who has a traveling fellowship in economic entomology, made the acquaintance of several of the specialists in taxonomy on April 28 and 29. He was especially interested in Tortricidae, and consulted with the Bureau's specialist, August Busck, in regard to this family.

A valuable collection of Philippine Island insects, formed by Dr. W. Dwight Pierce while he was employed as entomologist for the Victorias Milling Company, of the Island of Negros, has through the interest of Dr. Pierce been received from that company. It contains many rare insects, and interesting material of early stages, and will be a valuable addition to the collections of the National Museum.

Dr. David I. Miller, Government Entomologist of New Zealand, visited the taxonomic unit on April 25, and subsequently, in order to consult with several of the specialists.

Dr. W. A. Riley, head of the department of zoology, University of Minnesota, visited several of the specialists in the taxonomic unit at different times from April 24 to April 26.

On April 26 Dr. Karl von Frisch, head of the zoological laboratory of the University of Munich, came to the Division of Insects with Dr. N. E. McIndoo, of the Bureau of Entomology, and met several of the taxonomy specialists of the Bureau.

Professor A. L. Melander, of the department of biology, University of the City of New York, spent April 28 and 29 at the Museum examining material in the National collection of Diptera.

Dr. M. W. Blackman, specialist on bark beetles, left Washington on May 1 for a summer's field work on forest insects at Prescott, Ariz.

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#### STORED-PRODUCT INSECTS

E. A. Back, in Charge

Dwight F. Barnes, formerly on the staff of the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory, Division of Forest Insects, was transferred April 1, 1930, to the laboratory for the study of dried-fruit insects. Mr. Barnes left Washington for Fresno, Calif., on April 19.

On March 31 A. O. Larson, who had for some time been in Washington, preparing manuscripts, left for his office at Modesto, Calif.

E. A. Back and G. W. Ellington visited a flour mill at Ellicott City, Md., April 25 and 26, to conduct experiments on fumigation in milling machinery.



George B. Wagner attended the meetings held for the instruction of grain growers by the Kansas State Agricultural Experiment Station, at Pratt April 9, at Hutchison April 10, and at Wichita April 11. Mr. Wagner also attended the meeting of flour-mill operators held at Manhattan, April 26, and read there a paper on "The heating of wheat, and its effect upon the milling and baking qualities of wheat," prepared under the joint authorship of Mr. Wagner and C. O. Swanson, head of the Milling Department of the Experiment Station.

During the week of April 6 Dr. R. T. Cotton was in Buffalo assisting in the fumigation of wheat with the ethylene oxide-carbon dioxide mixture. These fumigations were conducted under the direction of Laurel Duval, of the New York Produce Exchange. There were also present representatives of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. During the week of April 21 Dr. Cotton and representatives of those Bureaus were present at Port McNicoll, Ontario, Canada, where over a million bushels of wheat were being fumigated with the ethylene oxide-carbon dioxide mixture.

On April 3 Perez Simmons gave an illustrated talk before the Castilleja Nature Club of the Fresno State College on "The history of the fig wasp."

On April 24 Perez Simmons, W. D. Reed, and D. F. Barnes visited Sacramento to attend the organization meeting of entomologists and others interested in entomology in California north of the Tehachapi Mountains. About 65 were present. The name chosen for this organization, which is similar to the Entomological Club of Southern California, is the "California Entomological Club." Director Hecke delivered an address of welcome, and four papers were presented. The chief work of bringing about the organization has been done by Stewart Lockwood, formerly of this Bureau, but now with the California State Department of Agriculture.

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#### INSECTS AFFECTING MAN AND ANIMALS

F. C. Bishopp, in Charge

On April 2 F. C. Bishopp went to Baltimore to confer with Dr. Baer, of Johns Hopkins University, in regard to the rearing of blow-fly larvae, which Dr. Baer is using for treatment of certain bone diseases.

F. C. Bishopp left Washington April 7 for El Paso, Tex., to testify in a law case involving infringement of the Insecticide Act. Before his return to Washington, on April 27, he visited all field laboratories of the division in Texas.

O. G. Babcock went to El Paso from his headquarters, Sonora, Tex., on April 24 to testify at the trial mentioned in the preceding paragraph, and went from there to points in New Mexico and Arizona to collect data on screw worms and goat lice.



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Mabel Colcord, Librarian

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BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Purchases of Coal

The General Accounting Office has indirectly challenged the practice of accepting bids for coal, under the assumption that the commercial custom in any particular neighborhood is uniform as to whether a long ton (2240 pounds) or a short ton (2000 pounds) is the measure of a ton of coal in the locality, where the specifications have been silent as to the number of pounds per ton. Hereafter, definite information in all specifications for coal will be required as to the number of pounds in a ton.

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P. B. A. Circular 145, Volume of Household Goods shipped at Department Expense.

(See Official Record, Vol. 9, No. 15, April 10, 1930, Page 4.)

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The following abstracts of recent decisions of the Comptroller General of the United States are of general interest:

Vol. 9, A-30140, page 311: Traveling Expenses - Passports - Visas - Passport Photographs.

"Expenses incurred in connection with the procuring of passports, visas, and passport photographs, by employees traveling to foreign countries on official business, not being authorized by the Standardized Travel Regulations, may not be reimbursed as official traveling expenses.

A-30312, page 339: Contracts - Mistake in Bid - Withdrawal - Correction.

"To authorize the correction or withdrawal of a bid before acceptance on the basis of a mistake alleged after the opening of bids, the evidence of mistake must be such as to show conclusively that a mistake was made, in what it consists, and how it occurred, requiring the immediate presentation of such convincing proof of the existence and character of the error as to leave no room for doubt that there was in fact a bona fide mistake in the bid sought to be corrected or withdrawn and to remove any reasonable suspicion that the claim of error is for the purpose of obtaining some undue advantage or of avoiding the consequence of an ill-advised bid.

A-30326, page 361: Contracts - Mistake in Bid - Correction.

"Where a bid to furnish a number of valves for the Government was accepted and thereafter the bidder urged mistake in submission of the bid in that the prices quoted were based on furnishing a type of valve not in accordance with the specifications, the mistake not being apparent on the face of the bid and the difference between the accepted bid and the other bids submitted not being such as to put the Government contracting officer on notice that



a mistake had been made when the offer was accepted with the intention of taking advantage of the mistake, the bid may not be corrected nor is the bidder entitled to be paid any amount in excess of the bid price.

A-29831, page 363: Traveling Expenses - Meals or Lodgings Furnished Member of Family.

"The term 'family' as used in paragraph 47 (c) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations contemplates any person related to the employee by consanguinity or marriage.

"The term 'dependent' as used in paragraph 47 (c) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations means dependent in fact on the employee for any support, even though having other means of adequate support.

"Where an employee of the Government in a travel status is furnished meals or lodgings by a member of his family, without charge, reimbursement therefor is not authorized under any circumstances, either on an actual expense basis or a per diem in lieu of subsistence basis.

"Where an employee of the Government in a travel status is furnished meals or lodgings by a member of his family, by another Government employee, or by a member of another Government employee's family, with charge, in order to authorize reimbursement therefor it must be shown: first, that the subsistence was not procured because of such personal or official relationship; second, that it was impracticable to secure the subsistence elsewhere; third, that the person furnishing the subsistence was not dependent on the traveler for support. In the absence of such evidence an employee on an actual expense basis is entitled, within the prescribed limit for actual expenses, only to the other authorized subsistence expenses incurred, and an employee on a per diem allowance basis is entitled to one-fifth less for each meal or lodging so furnished with charge.

A-29776, page 366: Traveling Expenses - Meals Furnished by Another Government Employee.

"The per diem in lieu of subsistence allowance of an employee of the Government who, when traveling on official business, is furnished without charge a meal as the guest of another Government employee, is required by paragraph 47 (c) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations to be reduced one-fifth for each meal so furnished.

A-29601, page 368: Contracts - Increased Costs - Transportation Charges.

"Where a contractor is permitted to make shipment at Government expense to destination from some point other than from the f.o.b. point stated in the contract, he should be charged with the excess, if any, of the net Government rates, paid from the point of shipment to destination over the net Government rates that would have been payable if the shipment had moved from the f.o.b. point stated in the contract to destination. 9 Comp. Gen. 250, modified."



Use of Government-owned Trucks

Letter from Mr. C. W. Boyle, Acting Solicitor, dated March 7, 1930, answering questions with respect to the use of a Government truck by employees in going from their lodging to their place of duty, and from their place of duty to lunch, the nearest place where lunch is served being some distance from the duty station:

"I have received your letter of February 21, 1930, enclosing a letter from Mr. J. E. Graf, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Entomology, in which he submits several questions relative to the use of a Government truck by employees in going from their lodging to their place of duty, and from their place of duty to lunch, the nearest place where lunch is served being some distance from the duty station. In order to answer these questions specifically, I am copying them in the order in which they are given in Mr. Graf's letter.

- "1. (a) If authority may be given an employee to use a Department truck or other Government conveyance in daily trips from his lodgings to a laboratory which may be located more than a mile from a small town where there is no other means of transportation.
- (b) If under the same conditions an employee may use the truck or other conveyance in going to and from lunch when there are no lunch rooms in the vicinity of the field station?
- "2. If it is found that a Department truck can not be used for the purpose mentioned in Par. 1 a and b, would it be advisable to utilize the truck to transport an employee to and from the laboratory on the regular daily trips to town for mail?
- "3. If it is permissible to allow an employee to use a Department conveyance under either of the conditions mentioned, to what extent would he be considered in a duty status in the event of an accident resulting in an injury to the employee?

"Answer No. 1(a). A Government officer would not be authorized in giving permission to an employee to use a Department truck or other Government conveyance in daily trips from his lodging to the laboratory even though the laboratory may be located quite some distance from the town in which the employee lives and there is no other means of transportation. The Comptroller has repeatedly held that employees are required to place themselves in a duty status and it is no function of the Government to do so.

"In 23 Comp. Dec., 452, the Comptroller, in disallowing a claim for travel between the United States Custom House Building to the Marine Hospital, New Orleans, said:



'Any allowance or reimbursement made to an officer or employee for expenses incurred in going between his residence and his work would be in the nature of an additional compensation and, as such, prohibited by law, but expenses incurred in going from place to place in the performance of his official duties and to facilitate such performance are, when properly authorized, expenses incident to the work as distinguished from personal, or what are usually termed 'travel' expenses.

'The decisions of this office relative to travel expenses have no application to the case here presented because if the car fare of these inspectors is to be paid by the Government it is to be paid not as a traveling expense or a personal expense but as a necessary expense incident to the work on which they may be engaged.

'If in the administration of the customs service you deem it necessary to purchase car tickets for the use of inspectors in the performance of their official duties, or to reimburse them for amounts expended for care fare where the purchase of tickets is impracticable, the appropriation in question is available for that purpose (20 Comp. Dec., 546; 74 MS. Comp. Dec., 102, July 14, 1915). But it is not necessary, nor do I think it would be advisable, for you to arbitrarily limit the radius of an inspector's station so that he would be beyond the limits of his station and in a travel status when performing his daily or regular duties at the port.'

also 27 Comp. Dec., 430.

"(b). The answer to 1(b) is covered by the answer to 1(a).

"Answer No. 2. If the Department truck makes a daily trip to town for mail and passes the residence of the employee in question, I do not believe there would be any objection to this employee returning to the laboratory in the truck, but under no consideration could this arrangement be made for the convenience of the employee, as he is required to place himself in a duty status at his own expense, and the Department could not legally use a Government truck for the purpose of taking care of the personal needs of an employee.

"Answer No. 3. As the first two questions under No. 1 are answered in the negative, it will not be necessary to consider them in answer to question No. 3. If the employee, as stated in question 2, is required as a part of his duties to make daily trips to town for the mail and incidentally stops to take an employee as a passenger on board the truck, the employee who rides as a passenger would under no consideration be in a duty status in the event of an accident resulting in the injury to such employee.

"Answering your questions specifically, I am of the opinion that you are not authorized to grant an employee the use of a Government truck for the purposes above mentioned, nor are you authorized to allow an employee who is engaged to drive the truck, to stop on his route as a regular proposition for the purpose of taking aboard as a passenger an employee in order that he may be transported to his duty station."



